

**ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP**  
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**Memorandum**

**To: Co-Chairs Clyde Burmaster & Barry Weinstein, MD**

**From: Transportation Subcommittee Chair Hal Morse**

**Re: April & May 2004 meetings**

**Date: May 21, 2004**

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The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Transportation Subcommittee met April 23 and May 7, 2004 at the UB Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth. Present for the April meeting were subcommittee members Morse, Burmaster, Clark, Ferraro, Lehman, and Wendel, as well as Mike Ball of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, Bob Gower from the NFTA, and the GBNRTC's Doug Struckel. Present for the May meeting were subcommittee members Morse, Ferraro, Lehman, Ruszala, and Wendel, as well as Mike Ball and ENRP Co-Chair Barry Weinstein, MD.

**Job Access & Public Transportation:**

The project continues on track, and this year we will the pilot as described. The subcommittee will also continue to develop the long-term process proposal for deployment as needed. There have already been some short-term NFTA corridor changes based on our work, but a more concrete deliverable must be produced. Recent developments such as the casino hotel and airport terminal in Niagara County, and the Cheektowaga casino location in Erie, have reinforced our choice of corridors. The subcommittee discussed ways to make employers and employees aware of the service once it's in place.

**Niagara Falls International Airport:**

ENRP has been consistently supportive of efforts to develop the NFIA, but the question was posed – how can we really help the project? The subcommittee feels we need to continue to be supportive and acknowledge the new terminal as a necessary and integral component for Western New York. It was also suggested that perhaps we can act as a conduit to other efforts, making sure

the NFIA is properly recognized in economic development and tourism efforts currently underway. Finally, staff can analyze the various proposals that have been put forth over the years and put the main elements together for review by the subcommittee and the co-chairs.

Possible Action Items for 2004:

A list of possible action items for the subcommittee was presented and discussed. They include:

- Regional traffic trends
- Niagara Falls International Airport
- Shoreline Corridor implementation
- Regional transportation priorities
- Signal systems upgrades and coordination
- Highway facilities ownership
- Cross border / Grand Island bridge problem definition
- Regional rail needs
- Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program

It was suggested that the subcommittee try to crystallize the focus on significant regional priorities, and coordinate this with other organizations' priority lists.

Other Topics:

Other topics discussed include transportation elements of the Regional Economic Development Strategy, implementation timetables of current efforts, highway disconnects, and projects with near-term regional significance.